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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN  
WORCESTERSHIRE

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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1960

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL HOUSE,  
HALESOWEN



BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN

REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1960



MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1960

Chairman: Alderman C. Willetts, C.C.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor R. Blakeway

The Mayor: Councillor Miss E.M. Bridge, J.P.

Councillors

A. Brodie                      N. Garner                      L.D. Lay

W.J. Cadd                      D.C. Herbert

A. Whitehouse

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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

R.L. Corlett, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

C.W.J. Hingston, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M. and H., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

A. Archer (a.b.c.)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

A.R. Humphries (a.b.c.)

District Public Health Inspectors:

R. Mather (a.b.c.)

B.L. Breakwell (a.b.)

K. Adams (a.b.)

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

Miss E. Russ.

Chief Clerk:

G.W.J. Lewis

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health:

Miss P.J. Marsh

Clerks:

Mrs. H. Deeley

Mrs. M.A. Bagley

Mrs. B.M. Bradley

Mrs. M.E. Grainger (Welfare Foods)

- (a) Public Health Inspector's Certificate
- (b) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate
- (c) Smoke Inspector's Certificate.





Council House,  
Halesowen.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1960

Madam Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

We had a very wet summer, made more noticeable by the fact that the previous summer had been exceptionally fine.

Last year and for the first time I was able to record that there had been no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. In 1960 there were three deaths attributed to this illness. A very hopeful sign however is that since 1954 the annual number of new notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis has fallen from 47 to 14 in 1960. We should aim at the absolute eradication of tuberculosis from our country. To do this it will be necessary to trace all infectious cases, most of whom can be rendered non-infectious by modern drugs. This will be a difficult task.

The Mass Radiography Unit (stationed at Dudley, Medical Director Dr. R.J. Posner), Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, visits Halesowen on the first and third Tuesday each month between the hours of 5.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. at the Old Bethel Mission, Cornbow, Halesowen. This is of great help in the diagnosis of various chest complaints.

During the year births exceeded deaths by 270. Of the sixteen deaths of infants under one year of age, half occurred under one week and eight between one week and one month.

There were twenty-seven deaths due to cancer of the lung and bronchus, all males, compared to seventeen for the previous year and twenty-four during 1958. Deaths from bronchitis numbered twenty-four, the same as in 1959. Our death rate from bronchitis is about the same as that for England as a whole. One hopes, and I expect the prevalence of bronchitis to fall in England, when and if we succeed in getting really clean air to breathe.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman, Alderman C. Willetts, C.C., and members of the Public Health Committee for their advice and encouragement, the Town Clerk Mr. J.B. McCooke, my fellow officers, Mr. A. Archer and his staff, and Miss P.J. Marsh for their help and co-operation so readily given. I wish also to acknowledge the help we always receive from Dr. R.J. Henderson, Medical Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Worcester.

I have the honour to be, Madam Mayor, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R.L. CORLETT,

Medical Officer of Health



SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

Area of the district .....	5,247	acres
Population census, 1951 .....	39,884	
Population mid 1960 .....	44,180	
Rateable value .....	£540,141	
Sum represented by the penny rate .....	£2,170	
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1960 .....	14,508	
Number of persons per house .....	3	

The Borough of Halesowen is easily accessible for industrial purposes to the Black Country but fortunately it forms part of the northern area of the beautiful County of Worcester. It is partly industrial, partly residential and partly agricultural. The prevailing wind comes from the rural belt surrounding the Borough.

The larger industrial plants in the Borough comprise the manufacturing of tube and tube fittings, the manufacture and machining of heavy forgings for the marine, electrical and mining industries, the production of die blocks for the drop forging industry, drop forging, the polishing of stainless steel, and the manufacture of brick and fireclay goods. The lighter industries include the making of buttons, spades, shovels, forks, electric motors and the manufacture of clothes.

**VITAL STATISTICS**

(a) Live Births:		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	... ..	334	338	672
Illegitimate	... ..	10	11	21
		<u>344</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>693</u>

(b) Still Births:				
Legitimate	... ..	8	14	22
Illegitimate	... ..	-	-	-
		<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>22</u>

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births for England and Wales ... .. 0.39

Maternal Mortality Rate for 1,000 total live and still births for Halesowen ... .. nil

Neonatal Mortality Rate infant deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births for England and Wales ... .. 15.6

Neonatal Mortality Rate infant deaths under 4 weeks, per 1,000 live births for Halesowen ... .. 14.4.

Birth rate per 1,000 resident population ... .. 15.7  
 Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 0.94 ... .. 14.76  
 Birth rate for England and Wales ... .. 17.1

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS	235	188	423

Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 9.57  
 Area comparability factor ..... 1.31  
 Adjusted death rate ..... 12.5  
 Death rate for England and Wales ..... 11.5  
 Infant Mortality rate ..... 23.1  
 Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales ..... 21.7

The adjusted death rate is obtainable by multiplying the crude death rate by the area comparability factor.



DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate .....	12	4	16
Illegitimate .....	-	-	-
	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>16</u>

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Total deaths	Over 1 week Under 1 month	Under 1 week
Prematurity .....	6	1	5
Cold syndrome .....	1	1	-
Pneumonia .....	3	3	-
Congenital heart disease ....	1	1	-
Congenital abnormalities	3	2	1
Cerebral haemorrhage .....	2	-	2
	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

CAUSES OF DEATHS

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	3	-
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease .....	-	-
4. Diphtheria .....	-	-
5. Whooping cough .....	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections .....	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis .....	-	-
8. Measles .....	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ....	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	6	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	27	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	-	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	-	6
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm ...	25	16
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	1	-
16. Diabetes .....	2	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	23	39
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	50	33
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	1	5
20. Other heart disease .....	15	39
21. Other circulatory disease .....	7	4
22. Influenza .....	-	2
23. Pneumonia .....	9	10
24. Bronchitis .....	26	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ....	4	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	2	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .....	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	4	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	-	-
31. Congenital malformation .....	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	16	6
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	3	1
34. All other accidents .....	7	7
35. Suicide .....	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war .....	-	-
	<u>235</u>	<u>188</u>



Death Rates from respiratory tuberculosis, England and Wales, per million population .....	68
Corresponding figure for Halesowen, per million population ....	67
Cancer of the lung and bronchus per million, England and Wales .....	481
Corresponding figure for Halesowen (27 deaths) .....	611
Other cancer per million, England and Wales .....	1676
Corresponding figure for Halesowen .....	1403

### SECTION B

#### General Provision of Health Services in the Borough of Halesowen

##### 1. (a) Public Health Officers.

The staff of the Public Health Department is given on page 3

##### (b) Laboratory Facilities

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst, Mr. M.M. Love, F.R.I.C.

Bacteriological work is done by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, under the Medical Director, Dr. R.J. Henderson.

##### 2. Ambulance Service.

The ambulance service is controlled by the Worcestershire County Council. There are six ambulances and six whole time drivers. The ambulance station is situated in Hawne Lane, Halesowen.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough in addition to those in the City of Birmingham are the Corbett Hospital, Wordsley Hospital, the Guest Hospital, Dudley, and Bromsgrove General Hospital.

Maternity cases are taken to Mary Stevens Hospital, Stourbridge, the Lucy Baldwin Hospital, Stourport, and the Loveday Street Maternity Hospital, Birmingham.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are carried in the two ambulances at Hayley Green Hospital.

##### 3. Nursing in the Home

The Worcestershire County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area. They have also arranged a "Home Help" service in conjunction with the W.V.S.

##### 4. Tuberculosis

Sanatorium treatment and the provision of dispensary treatment are the responsibility of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

##### 5. Infectious Disease

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Hayley Green Hospital. This Hospital is under the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and administered by Group 17, Dudley, Stourbridge and District Hospital Group, Birmingham Region.

##### 6. School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Sessions.

These are provided by the County Council and the district has three centres: Hill and Cakenore, Halesowen and Cradley. A new clinic is being erected at Hill and Cakenore and will be opened in May, 1961.

##### 7. Welfare Foods

Distribution of welfare food is carried out from the Infant Welfare Centres, the Public Health Department, and four shops in the Borough.





SECTION C

WATER

The supply to Halesowen during 1960 was satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity and was derived mainly from the Churchill and Hagley Pumping Stations and the Hayley Green works, with smaller quantities from other pumping stations outside the Borough including Kinver and Prestwood. The water is not liable to plumbo solvency but periodic samples are taken for lead by the Company.

Station	Raw Water		Treated Water		Result of chemical test
	No. of samples	No. free from coliform bacteria	No. of samples	No. free from coliform bacteria	
Churchill Pumping	54	51	54	54	satisfactory
Hagley Pumping	102	102	51	51	satisfactory
Hayley Green Works	57	45	56	55	satisfactory
*Kinver Pumping	-	-	53	53	satisfactory
*Prestwood Pumping	-	-	53	52	satisfactory
Fire Station Halesowen	-	-	51	51	-
Waterman's house	-	-	-	-	-
Waxland Road, Halesowen	-	-	15	15	-

\*Owing to the method of chlorination it was not possible to obtain samples of raw water at these two stations.

The average chemical results for 1960 were as follows:-

	Waxland Road	Fire Station
Number of Samples	15	51
	parts per million	
Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	106	106
Chlorides (Cl)	18.0	17.8
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	Trace	Trace
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	3.2	3.2
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	.12	.12
Temporary Hardness	100	101
Permanent Hardness	64	65
Total Hardness	164	166
Iron (Fe)	.01	.01
Manganese (Mn)	nil	nil
Free Cl	.02	.02

Details are set out below of the method of water supply to houses in the Borough:-

Number of houses supplied direct from public water mains	14,407
Number of persons	43,880
Number of houses supplied from party taps	101
Number of persons	300



The following main extensions were carried out during 1960:-

	Lineal yards laid of main		
	3"	4"	6" diameter
<b>HALESOWEN</b>			
Central Redevelopment Area, Road No. 5.		2	
Bromsgrove Street Site	3	138	
<b>CRADLEY</b>			
Two Gates Lane		90	
<b>HILL</b>			
Mucklow Hill		128	
Long Lane	17		
Prospect Road, Mucklow Hill.			14
<b>CAKEMORE</b>			
Station Road		129	

Only a few isolated dwellings are not supplied with mains water. These depend on private wells for their supply.

#### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Sewage from the Borough, together with a certain amount of storm water is drained into the branch sewers of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board. The branch sewers discharge into the main high level outfall sewer and treatment of the flow is carried out at the Whittington irrigation farms, and the disposal works at Quarry Bank. At the farm treatment consists of passing sewage through a detritus tank and to various treatment centres for irrigation on the land. The disposal works are relatively modern.

After removal of detritus the sewage passes through primary settlement tanks and finally humus tanks before discharge into the River Stour. Sludge is drawn from the various units into digestion tanks and then dried on open beds.

The Board has accepted a tender and work will commence in the Spring of 1961 on a duplication of a branch sewer taking sewage from an area in the northern part of the Borough. The work will cost £100,000 and take approximately twenty months to complete. This new sewer will take the overflow which at present discharges regularly into the River Stour on the Halesowen-Rowley Regis boundary.

Approval of the Ministry has also been obtained for the construction of new storm water tanks at Cradley having a capacity of two million gallons and for the construction of new disposal works at Quarry Bank adjacent to the existing works with an ultimate capacity of six million gallons per day.

Further work envisaged is the duplication of the branch sewers in the Furnace and New Road areas in the year 1961/62 to coincide with the reconstruction of Dudley Road, Halesowen. This will probably be the first step in the duplication of the high level outfall from Dudley Road to Cradley Heath. The present sewer was constructed in 1890 and takes the sewage flow from the greater part of the Borough and at the present time is seriously overloaded.

The Public Health Department is indebted to O.C. Rowe, Esq., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Engineer to the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board, for this information.



## HOUSING

Details of the inspection of houses are given later in the report. In 1960, the number of houses built was 153 (104 by the local authority and 49 privately).

Before the war 1,844 houses were built by the Council and the total number of Council owned houses at the end of 1960 was 3,665, eighty-six of these being temporary houses.

Six families were rehoused during 1960 on the grounds of tuberculosis in the interest of the patient and in the hope that extra accommodation would lessen the risk of infection.

## SECTION E

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other Diseases.

## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## SMALLPOX

No cases were reported during the year.

## SCARLET FEVER

Thirty-seven cases were reported as against fifty-seven for the previous year.

## DIPHTHERIA

No cases were reported during the year.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The work is the responsibility of the County Council and the Department continues to carry on the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics on their behalf. The number of children treated at the Clinics during 1960 was as follows:-

	Primary Treatment Completed	Boosting Doses
Under 5 years .....	601	153
Five to 15 years ...	22	326
	<u>623</u>	<u>479</u>

## ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

In 1959 and 1960 there were no cases of poliomyelitis reported.

## ERYSIPELAS

There were three cases reported during the year as against none in 1959.

## MEASLES

There were thirty-nine cases of measles reported this year as against 669 reported the previous year.

## MEASLES NOTIFICATIONS

	WARDS					Total
	North	South	East	West	Central	
January .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
February .....	1	-	-	-	-	1
March .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
April .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
May .....	-	2	-	-	1	3
June .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
July .....	-	12	-	-	-	12
August .....	-	18	-	-	2	20
September .....	-	-	-	1	-	1
October .....	-	1	-	-	-	1
November .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
December .....	1	-	-	-	-	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>39</u>



MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS

There were no cases reported during the year as against two cases reported in 1959.

FOOD POISONING

There were seven cases notified during the year, these being two members of three families and a single case. All occurred during the first quarter of the year. The single case was a staphylococcal infection, in the other no pathogens were isolated. Admission to hospital was not required.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were sixty-six cases of whooping cough reported during the year as against twenty-nine cases reported the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Fifteen new cases were reported during the year. They were fourteen pulmonary and one non-pulmonary. There were three deaths as against none in 1959. The number of cases remaining on the register for the last two years were as follows:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	males	females	males	females
1959 .....	107	107	6	10
1960 .....	112	107	6	10

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1960

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	males	females	males	females
0-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-
15-	2	-	-	-
20-	1	-	-	-
25-	1	1	1	-
35-	4	-	-	-
45-	2	-	-	-
55-	2	-	-	-
65-	1	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-
	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

As we see by the following tables, cancer of the lung is now a much more common cause of death than tuberculosis.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Year	New notifications	Deaths
1948 .....	40	11
1949 .....	29	22
1950 .....	37	14
1951 .....	38	8
1952 .....	35	9
1953 .....	31	4
1954 .....	47	2
1955 .....	28	3
1956 .....	21	1
1957 .....	16	3
1958 .....	18	2
1959 .....	21	-
1960 .....	14	3





DEATHS FROM CANCER OF LUNG, BRONCHUS

Year	Males	Females
1950	10	1
1951	13	1
1952	9	2
1953	8	2
1954	10	1
1955	18	1
1956	12	2
1957	9	1
1958	22	2
1959	15	2
1960	27	-

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION ASSIGNED TO BRONCHITIS 1951 to 1960

Area	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
England	0.84	0.62	0.69	0.57	0.64	0.66	0.60	0.65	0.64	Not yet available
Halesowen	0.85	0.65	0.65	0.81	0.62	0.68	0.53	0.71	0.66	0.65

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1960

Disease	Total	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	age unknown
Scarlet fever .....	37	-	3	2	30	1	1	-	-	-
Measles .....	39	2	11	8	18	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough .....	66	4	7	16	34	5	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis paralytic .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis non-paralytic .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia .....	42	8	5	2	5	-	2	15	5	-
Erysipelas .....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Food poisoning .....	7	1	-	-	3	1	-	2	-	-
Meningococcal infections .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery .....	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Encephalitis .....	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-



REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The pattern of work in 1960 was broadly the same as that of the previous year except that rather more time was devoted to the problem of air pollution. One of the great important tasks facing public health officers is that of reducing the pall of smoke which so often hangs over both residential and industrial areas. This involves the acceptance of smoke control areas, and in the industrial field, far greater attention to the control of processes which give rise to smoke, grit, dust and fume. There are still some problems to be solved but the insistent and urgent application of our existing knowledge would produce visible results in a very short time.

Housing work went on steadily, particularly the removal by one means or another, of the grossly unfit houses. Unfortunately this work is not matched by the improvement of old but soundly constructed property which lacks modern amenities such as hot water, baths, internal water closets and proper food storage. Owners of tenanted property show little inclination to take advantage of the improvement grant schemes.

I should like to thank Dr. R.L. Corlett, Medical Officer of Health for his willing advice and also my own staff and workmen for their efforts during the year. I appreciate too, the help the department has had from the Town Clerk, Mr. J.B. McCooke, and his deputy Mr. T.J. Edwards, and also other colleagues in the various departments.

A. ARCHER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

September 1961



## HOUSING

### SLUM CLEARANCE

The removal of unfit houses by way of clearance areas, individual demolition orders or closing orders, went on steadily during the year. In 1954, when the Council carried out a survey to determine the extent of the slum clearance problem, it was shown that there were 677 houses likely to be considered unfit for human habitation. The Council at that time considered that clearance of the unfit houses would take eight years, that is, until the end of 1962. Because some houses have continued to deteriorate it is likely that within the next two or three years more houses will have to be included in the category of unfit and not capable of being repaired at a reasonable expense. Nevertheless, if the work of slum clearance is not interrupted it should be possible to see the end of most of the really unfit property within the next three or four years.

The total problem (as at 1954)

Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation ..... 677

Period in years required for the demolition of the houses.... 8

Action in first six years:-

Number of houses included in clearance areas ..... 312

Number of houses on which demolition or closing orders  
have been made ..... 146

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:-

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects  
(under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..... 250

Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to  
health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 163

Dwellinghouses (exclusive to those referred to under the  
preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects  
reasonably fit for human habitation ..... 87

Proceedings under Part II of the Housing Act 1957:-

Dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were  
made ..... 38

Dwellinghouses in respect of which undertakings were  
accepted ..... nil

Dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.. 12

Dwellinghouses in respect of which closing orders were  
made ..... 4

During the year, five clearance areas involving a total of 119 houses were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for confirmation. The Council decided to make a compulsory purchase order to



include the two Hagley Road clearance areas and the public inquiry was held in December. The Council had not made a decision at the end of 1960 about the future of the other four areas. Details are as follows:-

<u>Title of Order or Area</u>	<u>Number of houses</u>
Hagley Road Compulsory Purchase Order	59
New Street, Cradley, Clearance Area No.1.	22
New Street, Cradley, Clearance Area No.2.	23
Little Hill, Cradley, Clearance Area No.1.	3
Intended Street, Cradley, Clearance Area No. 2.	6
Hayley Green No.1 Clearance Area.	6

Houses in respect of which demolition orders or closing orders were made:-

Central and South Wards

29, 30, 31, 35, 36 and 37 Summer Hill.	3, 4, 5 and 6 Little Cornbow.
4 and 6 Bundle Hill.	Spring Cottage, Mount Street.
47 and 49 Blackberry Lane.	23 Cross Street.
31 and 33 Alexandra Road.	392 Stourbridge Road.

North and East Wards

104 Malt Mill Lane.	7 Masters Lane.
111 Long Lane.	70 New England.

West Ward

28, 34 and 36 Banners Lane.	32a, 114 and 116 Butchers Lane.
34, 36 and 44 Little Hill.	32a, 32b, and 184 Windmill Hill.
6, 8 and 10 Barrack Lane.	4 and 6 Intended Street.
25 New Street.	125 Furlong Lane

Dwellinghouses demolished as a result of demolition orders:-

Central and South Wards

Woods Cottage, Longmoor Road.	17 Furnace Hill.
69, 70 and 71 Stourbridge Road.	

West Ward

70, 72 and 74 Intended Street.	48 New Street.
7, 9 and 11 Blue Ball Lane.	

HOUSING SUBSIDIES ACT, 1956

Certificates issued as to the unfitness of Council owned property...

Nos. 315 and 317 Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.





HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

Improvement Grants

(a) Standard Grants

Applications			No. of grants paid	Total paid	No. of houses	
Received	Approved	Refused			Tenanted	owner/occupied
63	60	3	44	£4,515	6	38

Amenities provided -

bath .....	36
wash hand basin .....	34
hot water supply .....	42
water closet .....	19
food store .....	19

(b) Discretionary Grants

Applications			No. of grants paid	Total paid	No. of houses	
Received	Approved	Refused			Tenanted	owner/occupied
17	13	4	10	£1,935	5	12

Applications for improvement grants continued to be received but out of a total of seventy-three grants approved during the year, only eleven were in respect of tenanted houses. This means that the provisions of the Act are failing to have any real effect on the condition of the mass of tenanted property in the Borough. There are a considerable number of houses the useful life of which would be prolonged for many years if they were equipped with bath, wash hand basin, internal water closet, hot water system and food store. It is felt that this position is not likely to be altered until local authorities are given legal powers to require owners of rented property to carry out these improvements, subject of course, to the payment of grant.

RENT ACT, 1957

The table below shows the number of applications for certificates under the Rent Act, 1957:-

1. Applications for certificates .....	3
2. Decisions not to issue certificates .....	nil
3. Decisions to issue certificates .....	3
(a) in respect of some but not all defects ...	1
(b) in respect of all defects .....	2
4. Undertakings given by landlords .....	1
5. Undertakings refused .....	nil
6. Certificates issued .....	2
7. Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates .....	7
8. Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates .....	nil
9. Decisions to cancel certificates despite tenant's objection .....	nil
10. Certificates cancelled .....	7



FOOD MANUFACTURE, PREPARATION AND

DISTRIBUTION

MILK SUPPLY

Now that the bulk of milk is heat treated the risk of disease transmission has been almost eliminated. The only complaints which come to the notice of the department are those relating to milk delivered in bottles containing foreign substances, or which have not been properly cleansed. There is little doubt that the dairy companies take a great deal of care to ensure thorough cleanliness of their equipment but so long as the final check has to be done by human beings in the absence at present of suitable mechanical devices, occasional dirty bottles do get through the plant.

During 1960 the following licences were in force:-

Distributors' licence in respect of heat treated milk	30
Distributors' licence in respect of sterilised milk	58

As from the 1st January 1960 the Worcestershire County Council under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, became the authority responsible for the issue of dealers' licences.

ICE CREAM

Many shops in the Borough sell ice cream but none is manufactured. The following registrations were in force at the end of 1960:-

Registrations for storage and sale only - 152

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

The position with regard to the sampling of food and drugs is that the Borough Council have made representations to the Ministry of Health to become a food and drugs authority. The decision about this is in abeyance until the future pattern of local government in the area has been decided.

The following samples of food were submitted to the analyst or to the public health laboratory for examination for various reasons:-

Investigation of a food poisoning case

ham, tongue and bottled pears.

Foreign matter in flour

A sample of flour was found to be contaminated with other edible matter derived from the manufacture of another product being handled in the building.

Sweets from automatic vending machines

Four samples of sweets from automatic vending machines were reported as free from pathogens.

Samples taken in the Borough by the officers of the Worcestershire County Council are given below:-

72 formal milk samples, 354 informal milk samples, 8 formal samples of miscellaneous foods, 127 informal samples of miscellaneous foods and 5 informal samples of drugs.

Total number of samples taken - 566

There were no prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, during the year.



## FOOD PREMISES

All the establishments in the Borough where food is manufactured, prepared or sold, are regularly inspected. The standard of hygiene, particularly in the larger premises such as school canteens and some of the industrial canteens, is very good. The district inspectors pay special attention to food handling techniques in all food premises because however well equipped the premises are, the risk of food infection cannot be eliminated unless the staff practice sound hygiene principles.

Details of improvements carried out during the year are as follows:-

butchers (inspections 96)	
improvements .....	2
bakehouses (inspections 17)	
cafes, canteens, etc. (inspections 45)	
fishmongers, poulterers (inspections 10)	
fried fish shops (inspections 36)	
improvements .....	2
food preparing premises (inspections 15)	
improvements .....	2
greengrocers, fruiterers (inspections 53)	
grocers (inspections 184)	
improvements .....	5
redecorations .....	2
ice cream premises (inspections 17)	
improvements .....	2
markets (inspections 21)	
improvements .....	1
licensed premises (inspections 63)	
improvements .....	3
redecorations .....	1
school canteens (inspections 36)	
other food premises (inspections 39)	
dairies and milk shops (inspections 9)	

List of food premises in the area:-

greengrocers .....	45	general food dealers.....	15
cafes .....	13	chemists .....	17
grocers .....	132	bakehouses .....	7
butchers .....	32	confectioners .....	28
licensed premises...	84	school kitchens .....	17
fish shops .....	17	factory canteens .....	36

Total number of food premises - 443

## FOOD INSPECTION

The following is a list of the foodstuffs, other than fresh meat, found to be unfit for human consumption:-

meat .....	265	cans	rice .....	17	cans
milk .....	66	"	cream .....	5	"
fruit .....	492	"	chicken .....	1	can
vegetables .....	234	"	fish paste .....	1	jar
fish .....	102	"	salad cream .....	1	"
soup .....	17	"	jam .....	11	jars



## INSPECTION OF MEAT

A complete meat inspection service is maintained at all times and every animal slaughtered is inspected. This work entails a small amount of regular evening work but save in exceptional circumstances no killing is carried out on Sundays. All the animals killed in the Borough are young and of good quality which means that only a small amount of meat is found to be unfit for human consumption.

Details of the animals slaughtered and the amount of meat condemned are shown below:-

	cattle excluding			sheep and	pigs
	cows	cows	calves	lambs	
Animals slaughtered and inspected	398	-	20	3,890	1,218
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	54	-	-	53	40
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	13.6	-	-	1.4	3.4
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	-	-	-	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0.25	-	-	-	1.2
Cysticercosis:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

The total weight of meat condemned was 10 cwts. 2 qrs. 14 lbs.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSE FACILITIES

As a result of the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, a report was submitted to the Public Health Committee in September 1960 on the slaughterhouse facilities in the Borough, on the probable future requirements of the district, and the slaughtering facilities available or likely to become available to meet those requirements. Interested parties and organisations were consulted before preparation of the report which was subsequently submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Minister accepted the report and the suggested date of 1st January 1962 as the day on which all the slaughterhouses in the district must comply with the construction regulations.

During 1960 six slaughterhouses were in regular use and in every case the owners intend to improve their premises to enable them to continue to slaughter.





## AIR POLLUTION

The work of developing smoke control areas started during the year and in the first place took the form of an exhibition and demonstration of smokeless equipment at a school in the Lapal area. This exhibition was combined with meetings and discussions with interested residents in the area. It was felt that the intensive public relations work which was done at the outset made the task of preparing the first smoke control areas easier than it might otherwise have been.

During the year three smoke control orders were made. These were respectively the Howley Grange No.1 Order, the Lapal No.1 Order and the Highfields No.1 Order. The statistical details concerning these orders are set out below. The dates on which the orders come into operation are as follows:-

Howley Grange No.1 Order	-	1st January	1962
Lapal No.1 Order	-	1st November	1961
Highfields No.1 Order	-	1st October	1961

	Howley Grange No.1	Lapal No.1	Highfields No.1	totals
Number of dwellings	375	487	93	955
Details of replacement fireplaces and adaptations to fireplaces -				
open fires     ...     ...	45	442	-	487
gas or electric fires ...	-	4	-	4
open fires with boilers	2	42	-	44
wash boilers	-	4	-	4
other appliances	-	49	-	49
adaptations to existing appliances	238	-	-	238
gas or electric points provided	84	506	-	590
Estimated cost of works	£443	£5,441	-	£5,884

### Industrial air pollution

The amount of black smoke emitted from chimneys serving boiler plant is now very much less than it was some years ago. This is not only because of the operation of the Clean Air Act but because industrialists recognise that the emission of black smoke from a chimney stack is invariably a symptom of waste and poor efficiency. The type of industrial pollution which gives rise to most complaint in the district is that which arises from the various operations of the ironfounding industry. Fumes are given off from the making and the baking of cores, from the metal pouring and knock-out processes, and dust is frequently emitted from the fettling and dressing operations. In addition, smoke dust and grit come from the cupola (the melting furnace used in most ironfoundries). The ironfounding problem is one which is common to many local authorities in the midlands and it is thought that one possible method of dealing with it would be for local authorities in the area to agree on a concerted and phased plan of campaign to reduce pollution from this source. Certainly more liaison is needed between the ironfounding industry and local authorities.

### Heights of new chimneys

The Clean Air Act, 1956, contains a provision which requires that local authorities under certain circumstances must be satisfied as to the heights of new chimneys. Your Chief Public Health Inspector continued as a member of the Working Party set up by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to investigate this problem.



AIR POLLUTION

There are five stations with deposit gauges and lead peroxide instruments. These are sited as follows:-

1. Fayley Green Hospital, Hayley Green, Halesowen.
2. Central Library, Council House, Halesowen.
3. Clive Hill County Primary School, Springfield Road, Blackheath.
4. Cradley County Modern School, Homer Hill, Cradley.
5. County Modern School, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.

The statistics for 1960 are set out below:-

Station	Monthly deposit of total solids in tons per square mile											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	12.14	9.37	9.51	7.70	10.64	12.82	8.71	19.96	8.43	10.26	6.32	4.77
2	13.52	15.73	14.98	8.52	17.90	13.41	11.73	13.35	13.07	17.50	8.81	9.93
3	15.99	10.64	12.28	8.30	16.18	23.38	6.67	14.43	16.09	16.31	5.24	9.77
4	8.36	7.20	11.45	17.73	12.44	22.85	11.06	13.11	15.30	14.17	7.46	7.64
5	11.51	13.47	11.90	11.81	25.21	15.88	10.05	10.97	*	12.81	8.50	9.54

  

Station	Weight of sulphur trioxide collected in milligrammes per 100 square centimetres per day											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	0.89	1.43	2.52	0.65	2.14	2.04	0.73	0.57	0.36	1.01	0.31	1.43
2	1.16	2.13	2.42	1.04	2.39	1.59	0.19	0.58	0.63	1.23	0.63	2.10
3	3.13	3.08	3.48	2.24	2.80	1.37	0.67	0.67	1.56	2.67	2.18	2.60
4	2.18	2.15	2.58	1.23	1.63	1.38	0.82	0.74	1.40	2.31	1.82	2.70
5	2.00	0.90	3.11	1.41	1.12	1.52	1.27	0.56	0.87	1.80	1.16	1.68

\* Deposit gauge not sent for analysis because of foreign matter added.



PUBLIC CLEANSING SECTION

The public cleansing service which includes the collection and disposal of refuse and salvage is administered by the Public Health Department. Street cleansing, gulley emptying, snow removal and the control of public conveniences is carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department. The Public Health Department also carries out the maintenance and servicing of the Council's vehicles and an increasing number of miscellaneous items of equipment.

Refuse collection and disposal

Domestic refuse is collected by four side loading vehicles and one rear loading vehicle, the five teams emptying some 16,000 dustbins from domestic and business premises. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on the site at Mucklow Hill and is consolidated by the use of a tracked angledozer. This vehicle was purchased during the year, copes with a greater quantity of refuse than did the previous tractor and has been most economical in use. The tip is visited regularly by parties of students from neighbouring areas and is regarded as a good example of controlled tipping.

The public cleansing costing returns on page 23 show a decrease in the cost of the service. There was a fall of 10/- per ton in the cost of collection and disposal and the cost per 1,000 population and per 1,000 premises compared with the year 1959/60 has fallen by £94 and £286 respectively. It costs 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per week to collect and dispose of the refuse from each house and for each resident 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per week.

The labour position remained satisfactory and in the autumn the incentive bonus scheme was revised to offset the difference in the basic wage paid in other trades in the area. In addition the Council continues to pay an 8/- per week excess rate by agreement with the National Joint Council. Provision of protective clothing continues to ensure that the Council provide the best working conditions for the staff.

Dustbin provision

Dustbins are supplied to private houses at a charge of 6/- per annum. The total number issued was 390, the same figure as in the previous year. The bins in use are of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  cu.ft. British Standard Specification and over a quarter of the houses in the Borough now have a Council owned dustbin.

Salvage

This continues to be collected but waste paper is the only material available in any real quantity. Some is collected by trailers attached to the refuse collection vehicles and in addition a separate collection is made from business premises. There was an increase of 20 tons in the quantity sent to the mills and an increase of £150 in the income to £2,615.

Vehicle maintenance

At the end of 1960 the following vehicles were being repaired and serviced:-

<u>Public Health Department</u>	<u>Highways and Parks Departments</u>	
7 refuse freighters	5 trucks	4 vans
2 trucks	1 gulley emptier	2 road sweepers
2 vans	3 motor mowers	2 tractors with trailers
3 angledozers	1 motor roller	1 mobile compressor
1 official car (Humber)	1 motor boat	

It is anticipated that in 1961 renewals will have to be made of several of the older vehicles, some of which have been in use for thirteen years or more and are now becoming uneconomical.

Vehicle inspection scheme

The vehicle testing station was approved by the Ministry of Transport and came into use in September. Up to the end of the year twelve vehicles were tested, five of which failed the test.



PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURN  
Cost Statement 1960-61

	Collection		Disposal		Totals		Percentage of total gross expenditure
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
<b>REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>							
<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>							
(a) Labour	11,983		2,072		14,055		51
(b) Transport	8,534		1,067		9,601		35
(c) Plant, equipment, land and buildings	676		2,643		3,319		12
(d) Other items	713		-		713		2
Total gross expenditure	21,906		5,782		27,688		100
<b>GROSS INCOME</b>	1,178		2,701		3,879		-
<b>NET COST</b>	20,728		3,081		23,809		-
Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)	-		-		-		-
<b>UNIT COSTS</b>							
Gross cost per ton, labour only	s. d. 19. 11		s. d. 3. 4.		s. d. 23. 3.		
Gross cost per ton, transport only	14. 3.		1. 7.		15. 10.		
Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	34. 6.		4. 11.		39. 5.		
Net cost per 1,000 population	£ 469		£ 69		£ 538		
Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,381		206		1,587		

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each house, per week 7½d.

Net cost of collection and disposal of refuse (including salvage) for each resident, per week 2½d.





## OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Area (statute acres) .....	5,247	acres
Population at 30th June 1960 (Registrar-General's estimate) .....	44,180	persons
Total refuse collected (tons) .....	12,015	tons
Weight (cwts) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) ...	15	cwts
Number of premises from which refuse is collected .....	14,872	premises
Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point .....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	miles
Total refuse disposed of .....	12,480	tons
Method of disposal (salvage excluded) controlled tipping .....	100	per cent.

Salvage - analysis of income and tonnage:

	Income £	tonnage
(a) raw kitchen waste	nil	nil
(b) scrap metal	13	5
(c) waste paper	2,615	333
(d) other salvage	14	3
	<u>2,642</u>	<u>341</u>

Trade refuse:

Income £423

Tonnage not weighed.

All refuse is weighed for one week every two months.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Only six caravans were used for living purposes in the district during 1960. Two of these were sited at the back of a house which is likely to be included in a clearance area in the near future.

### PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS

During the year as a result of discussions with officers in the West Midlands it was decided to revise the conditions under which petroleum spirit shall be stored. All new applicants for the storage of petroleum spirit must comply with the revised regulations which the Council has adopted.

The following licences were in force:-

89 to store petroleum spirit  
14 to store petroleum mixture

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Six licences were issued for the keeping of pets.

### RODENT CONTROL

Treatments were carried out at 102 dwellinghouses and 52 business premises. In each case the treatment was for minor infestations.

### FACTORIES ACTS 1937 - 1959

Eighty-seven visits were paid to factories in connexion with various matters.

Section 9 Factories Act 1959, transferred to the County Council as fire authority the functions of the Borough Council in connexion with means of escape from factories in case of fire. The relevant records were handed over to the Chief Fire Officer at the fire station at Hayley Green, Halesowen.



FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Reference By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1) . . . . .	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) . . . . .	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) . . . . .	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) . . . . .	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) . . . . .	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient . . . . .	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective . . . . .	1	--	-	1
(c) Not separate for sexes . . . . .	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences to home work)	-	-	-	-
	3	-	-	2

  

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written notices
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority . . . . .	13	2	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority . . . . .	242	83	3
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworker's premises)	-	-	-
	255	85	3

No prosecutions were instituted.



RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Drainage, public sewers	...	...	...	3
Drains	....	...	...	212
Sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	9
Nuisances (section 93)				
Premises	...	...	...	738
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	7
Dust or effluvia	...	...	...	27
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	29
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	38
Food poisoning	...	...	...	33
Offensive trades	...	...	...	1
Pigstyes	...	...	...	6
Verminous premises				
Council houses	...	...	...	49
Other houses	...	...	...	52
Public cleansing				
Dustbins	...	...	...	288
Trade refuse	...	...	...	7
Tips	...	...	...	34
Accumulations	...	...	...	15
HOUSING ACT, 1957				
Overcrowding	...	...	...	10
Individual unfit	...	...	...	125
Slum clearance	...	...	...	254
HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959	...	...	...	884
RENT ACT, 1957	...	...	...	34
CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956				
Nuisances	...	...	...	33
Observations	...	...	...	48
Visits to plant	...	...	...	22
Smoke control areas	...	...	...	940
Atmospheric pollution measurements	...	...	...	80
CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960				
...	...	...	...	17
PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS 1928 and 1936	...	...	...	71
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949	...	...	...	132
SHOPS ACT, 1950	...	...	...	11
FACTORIES ACTS 1937 - 1959				
With power	...	...	...	97
Without power	...	...	...	2
Outworkers	...	...	...	2



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	96
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	17
Cafes, canteens etc.	...	...	...	...	45
Dairies and milk shops	...	...	...	...	9
Fishmongers, poulterers	...	...	...	...	10
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	36
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	15
Greengrocers, fruiterers	...	...	...	...	53
Grocers	...	...	...	...	184
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	17
Markets	...	...	...	...	21
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	743
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	39
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	63
School canteens	...	...	...	...	36
Street vendors	...	...	...	...	7
LAND CHARGES	...	...	...	...	716
COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS	...	...	...	...	363
MISCELLANEOUS	...	...	...	...	232







